

# De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius



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“De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius”

Sept. 2016

## Events of Interest

**September 23-24, 2016.** The 39th New Netherland Conference, “From Pavonia to the Garden State: New Jersey’s Dutch Past.” will be held at the Theological Seminary, in New Brunswick, NJ. Located between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers, New Jersey has often been neglected in favor of more dramatic developments to the east and west. However, as the site of Pavonia, an early patroonship with major agricultural potential, and as the geographic connection between New Amsterdam and the Delaware River settlements, the Garden State’s 17th-century origins well deserve our attention.

### Friday morning

9:00am Welcome and introductions

9:30am **Session 1:** “Pavonia”

- Willem Klooster, Clark University, “New Netherland and the Dutch Moment in Atlantic History.”
- Evan Haefeli, Texas A&M University, “New Jersey in 1658: A Quaker witness to a little-known corner of New Netherland.”
- Andrea Mosterman, University of New Orleans, “The Geography of Slave Life in New Netherland.”
- Daniel Richter, University of

Pennsylvania, “‘Who Needs a House out in Hackensack?’ Native People and Dutch People West of the Hudson.”

### Friday afternoon

1:30pm **Session 2:** “Heritage”

- Dirk Mouw, Reformed Church Center, “Persistence of Dutch Identity and the Reformed Church.”
- Jeroen Dewulf, University of California, Berkeley, “*Baas to ‘Boss’*: America’s Dutch-Speaking Black Community from 17th-c. New Netherland to 19th-c. NY and NJ.”
- Kate Lynch, Independent Scholar, “There will be a college called Queens in our Province of New Jersey.”

### Friday evening

6:00pm Cocktail hour and dinner at the Rutgers University Inn and Conference Center

- Elizabeth L. Bradley, “‘The Egg from Whence was Hatched the Mighty City of New York’: Washington Irving’s Portrait of New Jersey.”

### Saturday morning

9:00am **Session 3:** “Emerging Scholars” In this session, Elizabeth Covart, host of the popular podcast “Ben Franklin’s World,” will

moderate the following panel of three of NNI’s Emerging Scholars, in which they will discuss why they chose New Netherland as their field of study:

- Deborah Hamer, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture;
- Artyom Anikin, University of Amsterdam;
- Joris van den Tol, Leiden University.

10:30am **Session 4:** “Dutch Defensive Works in New Netherland”

- Oscar Hefting, Dutch Fortress Museum, “Simon Stevin in the New World: Archæological research into 17th-c. Dutch defensive works in the Americas.”
- Jaap Jacobs, University of St. Andrews, “‘An Upright Stockade and a Small Breastwork’: Fortifications in New Netherland.”
- Craig Lukezic, Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, “Archæological Investigations of Fort Casimir.”
- Diana diZerega Wall, City College of New York, and Anne-Marie Cantwell, Rutgers University, “Building Forts and Alliances: Archæology at Freeman and Massapeag, Two Native American Sites.”

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**October 13-16, 2016.** The 48th Algonquian Conference will be held at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This conference is an international meeting for researchers to share papers on Algonquian peoples. Fields of interest include anthropology, archaeology, art, biography, education, ethnography, ethnobotany, folklore, geography, history, language education, linguistics, literature, music, native studies, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology. The Conference will open on the evening of Thursday, October 13 with a welcome reception. Regular conference sessions will take place from Friday morning to Sunday noon.

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**October 29, 2016.** The Institute for American Indian Studies (IAIS) of Washington, CT announces its 11th Native American-Archæology Round Table. This year's theme will be: "First Encounters: Dutch-Indigenous Relationships in Early New Netherland." Speakers will include Kevin McBride, Charles Gehring, Diana Wall, Anne-Marie Cantwell, Marshall Becker, Richard Manack, and Bonney Hartley. Talks will be held in the meeting room of the Institute's Research Building.

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**November 12, 2016.** The annual conference of the American Swedish Historical Museum will examine the nature and central role played by the Delaware River and Bay in the lives of all inhabitants of

the Delaware Valley in the 17th century. Host of the conference will be the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation of Wilmington, DE. Opening the program at 8:30am will be Len Tantilillo who will speak on "Dutch Vessels in Colonial America: An Artist's Perspective." Join him for this presentation of his many paintings created to celebrate this fascinating subject. For more information go to either: [www.american-swedish.org](http://www.american-swedish.org) or [www.kalmarnyckel.org](http://www.kalmarnyckel.org).

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**Until January 2, 2017.** "Celebration of Dutch and Flemish Drawings" at the National Gallery of Art, West Building, at 4th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20565. Over the last decade, the Gallery has acquired an exquisite selection of mid-15th- to early 20th-century Dutch and Flemish drawings. Some 20 works—many on view for the first time—cover a range of genres and incorporate a variety of media. Dutch highlights include a page from a 15th-century manuscript with illustrations by Barthélemy van Eyck and two rare compositional studies by Gerrit van Honthorst. For more information go to: [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov).

### **Publications**

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For those among you who have been looking for New Netherland-related reading material in Norwegian, search no further. *Nieuw Amsterdam, Nordmenn i det hollandske Amerika 1624-1674* by Frans-Arne Hedlund Stylegar,

director of the Varanger Museum, provides a Norwegian perspective on the settlement of New Netherland, including bios of *nordmenn* from Aefje Albertse to Trijntje Roelofs (NB: alphabetized according to given name). This 213 page work, complete with maps, extensive bibliography, and survey of place names is published by Commentum Forlag AS, Gamleveien 87, 4315 Sandnes, Norway. ISBN: 9788282333221.

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Here's another book to add to your shelf of New Netherland-related fiction. *The Roosevelt Rescue: Restoring Dutch America* by Zachary Finch is a fast-paced thriller that reveals a side of history rarely taught in schools—the history of the decisive Dutch role in the formation of the United States as the world's leading republic.

The redevelopment of Ground Zero requires the successful attorney Daniel Van Wart to explore New York City's earliest history, when it was still Dutch. Surprised by his findings, Daniel can't help but be intrigued by the lasting Dutch influence on America. Daniel's research has unexpected consequences. Hidden in the historical record is a centuries-old legal claim a powerful group plans to use for its own gain. Until their plan comes to fruition, they'll do anything to keep the matter quiet. Shadowed by a possible assassin and banned from the case by his prestigious law firm, Daniel realizes he's stumbled onto information that could shake two nations. With the help of Dutch activist attorney Kate

Bates, he picks up the trail that prior American presidents were forced to abandon, revealing a formidable pattern that seemed erased from the world's memory—and that could cost them their lives. 348 pages. Frangipani 2016.

Those of you who have read Daniëlle Hermans's *De man van Manhattan* (see NNM June 2011), will be reminded of the inherent dangers involved in working with 17th-c Dutch documents.

### News

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Hendrika (Jetty) Beaulieu-Boon has been asked to guest edit a special edition of CJNS (Canadian Association for the Advancement of Netherlandic Studies Journal). The edition is tentatively entitled, *Netherlandic Migrations: Narratives from North America*. They are currently working on altering the title for the Journal, as "Canadian" appears to be restrictive in the sense that many U.S. scholars do not feel eligible to contribute to the Journal based on its name.

Given the lack of focus on Dutch contributions to the Americas, both historical and current, this is a lamentable situation as we are working to increase the profile of the Journal and its potential contribution to Dutch history/lit/art etc. scholars.

Since the editor envisions "Netherlandic migrations" in terms of historical as well as more current movements, she writes to ask if any scholars are working on analyses of Dutch records, letters, art interpretation etc. from Nieuw Amsterdam. To include an article

focused on any of those documents would be a boon indeed. Contact: Dr. Hendrika H. Beaulieu-Boon; beaulieu@uleth.ca. Office: 403-329-2488.

### *Praatje*

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NNI's Senior Historian and Education Director Dennis Maika chats with Russell Shorto about Maika's work on 17th-century New Amsterdam/Manhattan merchants and his work promoting the importance of the seventeenth-century Dutch colony to the New York State Education Department. Topics include the economic structure of the colony, including the role of the Dutch West India Company, and the role of state regulation in the economy. To listen to this *praatje* (chat) in the form of a podcast or any of the other nine podcasts, go to: [bit.ly/2bCgTxL](http://bit.ly/2bCgTxL)

### NNI News

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Fulbright–NNRC Student Scholar Research Grant

The New Netherland Research Center (NNRC), a combined endeavor of the New Netherland Institute (NNI) and the Office of Cultural Education, New York State Education Department (NYSED/OCE), offers a joint Student Scholar Research Grant with the Fulbright Center of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The New Netherland Research Center provides a grant of \$ 3,000 for research, which is intended to defray the cost of a three-month residence at the NNRC, with the

research taking place at the NNRC itself, the New York State Library and the New York State Archives in Albany, New York. The research must take place in the field of New Netherland History and the Dutch Atlantic World, using the Records of New Netherland. Genealogical research is excluded. Application deadline is December 1, 2016.

NB: Apply for NNRC invitation no later than Nov. 1, 2016. For further details, go to: [bit.ly/2bRQ4YN](http://bit.ly/2bRQ4YN)

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The NNRC's incoming Student Scholar in Residence is Timo McGregor, a PhD candidate at New York University where he is writing a dissertation titled "Imagining the Dutch Atlantic: Cross-Imperial Collaboration and the Origins of Atlantic Political Thought." McGregor's research employs a comparative approach to examine three key zones of Dutch expansion in the seventeenth century—the Hudson River Valley, the Gold Coast, and the Guianas. This work examines how colonial actors developed political categories and language to describe their personal and institutional relationships with other European and indigenous polities. McGregor argues that a key function of global intellectual history is to explore how contemporaries experienced, conceptualized, and institutionalized the local effects of such global connections. Timo received his BA at University College Utrecht in the Netherlands with majors in history and international relations, and an MPhil from Cambridge University in the history of political thought.

### Totidem Verbis

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The Dutch in the Arctic  
by Peter A. Douglas  
(part three)

Barentsz is remembered now for his bravery and the intellectual curiosity that inspired future polar explorers. But back in 1597 the Northeast Passage had still not been found, the ship and cargo were lost, and the leader and four crewmen had not survived. So was Barentsz's voyage a failure? He died, so from his point of view, probably yes, but there were some important achievements nevertheless. More previously unknown coastline was discovered on this last voyage than on either of the other two. Bear Island, the northern and western coasts of Spitsbergen, and the northern and eastern shores of Novaya Zemlya had been reconnoitered and charted for the first time. While details about the whaling prospects near Spitsbergen did not come from Barentsz, the geographical information he collected certainly helped future whalers. He failed to find the route to the Indies but his northern expeditions helped to lay the foundations for the "Golden Age" in which trade with Russia was an important and rewarding element.

The most significant result of Barentsz's voyages is the posthumously printed map of the polar region, the first circumpolar map of the North Pole, based on a wealth of accumulated experience, and published by Cornelis Claesz of Amsterdam in 1598. While the coasts of Asia are speculative, the map shows a good grasp of the

coasts of Europe as far east as Novaya Zemlya, whose east coast is extensively mapped and features numerous place names. He clearly spent his time well while stuck on the ice. Barentsz's fame as an Arctic explorer helps us forget that he was a cartographer by trade and well read in the cartographical literature of the period.

The sponsors of the expedition from which Barentsz failed to return would probably not have attached much value to all these mostly long-term results, positive though they may have been. The States General, clearly unimpressed with the outcome, refused to do anything for Barentsz's widow when she applied for financial help in 1598.

In a somewhat ironic and poignant coda to the story of Willem Barentsz and that of all the other explorers who sacrificed, suffered, and died while looking for a northeastern route to Asia, we learn that global warming has helped achieve what they could not. Through excessive carbon emissions the Arctic ice pack has now shrunk so much that new sea lanes nearer to the North Pole, and the previously usable routes near shore, have opened up enough to make the Northern Sea Route (NSR), as it is now known, navigable for more months of the year. Shipping, mining, oil and gas drilling, and fishing ventures are now looking farther north than ever before. As the merchant adventurers and explorers of old would have understood well, this route over the top of Russia and south through the Bering Strait has become competi-

tive with the passage from western Europe to Asia via the Suez Canal, trimming days off the voyage and saving fuel. The polar route shaves, for example, over 4,000 miles (37 percent) off the voyage from Rotterdam to Yokohama by way of the Suez Canal.

The thawing north has made possible a new alternative route for ships that are too big for the Suez Canal and are therefore still forced to make the long haul around the Cape of Good Hope. While the NSR traffic is nowhere close to the 18,000 ships that pass through the Canal every year, the clear potential exists for an increase in traffic for the polar route and a consequent growth in savings of time and money for commercial interests. In the summer of 2011, one of the warmest on record in the Arctic, a tanker crossed the Arctic Ocean in a record six and a half days. Climate experts say that as the Arctic ice pack recedes farther offshore, thanks to continuing and barely restrained human pollution, this route will be passable for deepwater vessels without the help of icebreakers for a greater period each summer.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has endorsed the new business prospects, saying: "The Arctic is the shortcut between the largest markets of Europe and the Asia-Pacific region." Barentsz would doubtless have agreed, but perhaps he would have added, as we should, that it is, with the future of the planet at risk, the tarnished silver lining of a very dark cloud indeed. (concluded)

